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Tylenol Use in Babies, Children Raises Risk of Autism, New Review Shows

The authors of a new review of the drug acetaminophen (paracetamol), sold under the brand names Tylenol and Panadol, are sounding the alarm about the use of the drug in infants and children, citing the drug's association with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

By **Julie Comber, Ph.D.**

29

AUTISM
Infants' TYLENOL
Acetaminophen 160 mg per 5 mL Oral Suspension
Pain Reliever-Fever Reducer
Pain+Fever
Infants
SimpleMeasure
1 fl oz (30 mL) Grape
160 mg per 5 mL Flavor

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The authors of a new review of the drug acetaminophen (paracetamol), sold under the brand names Tylenol and Panadol, are sounding the alarm about the use of the drug in infants and children, citing the drug's association with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

"Our study shows that acetaminophen would never be approved for pediatric use by today's regulatory standards," Dr. William Parker, of WPLab, Inc., who led the research team that conducted the review on acetaminophen and autism, told The Defender.

The review, published in the July issue of Minerva Pediatrics, offers 17 lines of evidence that the commonly used remedy for pain and fever may be contributing to the autism epidemic.

The authors said their findings could have huge implications for preventing ASD, as acetaminophen is used so much in young children — in some populations, up to 90% of children receive acetaminophen in their early years.

The rate of ASD has skyrocketed in the last 40 years, and now affects 1 in 40 U.S. children.

Acetaminophen became the drug of choice to treat fevers and pain in children in the early 1980s, after aspirin was associated with Reye's syndrome.

However, the use of acetaminophen in infants and children was never shown to be safe for neurodevelopment.

"The belief that acetaminophen is safe for children is an assumption based on the fact many studies show it does not cause liver damage in children when used at an appropriate dose," said Parker.

Parker and his colleagues previously conducted a systematic review, published in February in the European Journal of Pediatrics, which showed the studies claiming acetaminophen is safe for children did not examine the effect of the drug on neurodevelopment — even though the brain is one of the primary target organs for the drug's therapeutic effect.

Their latest review builds on their earlier work showing acetaminophen was not assessed for impact on neurodevelopment, and on the strong evidence that prenatal exposure to acetaminophen increases the risks of neurodevelopmental issues.

There is little research on the effect of postnatal exposure to acetaminophen.

However, according to the study, "circumstantial evidence regarding postnatal exposure to the drug is abundant, and includes at least three otherwise unexplained temporal relationships, data from laboratory animal studies, several miscellaneous and otherwise unexplained correlations, and a lack of alternative suspects that fit the evidence-derived profile."

Based on this evidence, the authors "concluded without any reasonable doubt" that postnatal exposure to acetaminophen for children at risk is "responsible for many if not most cases of ASD."

The risk factor: oxidative stress

The key to understanding the role of acetaminophen in ASD is that acetaminophen alone does not trigger ASD — the negative impact happens in the presence of oxidative stress, according to Parker and his colleagues.

Oxidative stress is an imbalance of free radicals and antioxidants in the body that can lead to cell and tissue damage.

The body's cells produce free radicals during metabolism, the chemical reactions that produce energy in our cells. These free radicals cause damage to cells and contribute to chronic illnesses and the aging process.

Unlike many drugs, some of the acetaminophen an individual takes is converted by the body into a highly toxic metabolite, N-acetyl-p-benzoquinone imine (NAPQI).

Usually, NAPQI is rapidly neutralized (rendered harmless) by glutathione, and because most healthy children have lots of glutathione, they aren't harmed by NAPQI.

However, under conditions of oxidative stress, glutathione is depleted so the body can't adequately remove the NAPQI. Left unremoved, the NAPQI reacts with a wide range of proteins, causing permanent damage to the proteins and associated cells.

Many babies and children are exposed to excessive oxidative stress through a variety of environmental and genetic factors including infection, treatment with antibiotics, vaccination, psychological stress, jaundice, heavy metals, problems with vitamin B metabolism, EMF exposure, exposure to cigarette smoke or air pollution and exposure to organophosphates.

How likely a child is to be injured by acetaminophen depends in part on the amount of oxidative stress present when the child takes the acetaminophen and the amount of the drug administered to the child.

According to the authors of the review, understanding the role of oxidative stress in combination with acetaminophen contributes to our understanding of the disparate risk factors for ASD: They are sources of oxidative stress.

When a child develops a fever after receiving a vaccine, it's an indication the child is experiencing oxidative stress. Giving acetaminophen to a child in the throes of oxidative stress increases the child's risk of developing ASD, according to Parker.

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First indication that acetaminophen might be associated with ASD

Parker told The Defender the first indication that acetaminophen might have a negative impact on neurodevelopment came from the work of Dr. Stephen Schultz, who watched his child regress into ASD in 1996, after routine childhood vaccination followed by giving his child acetaminophen.

After his son's "slow slide" into autism, Schultz left his established dentistry practice and went on a journey to find out what happened to his child, earning a Ph.D. in the process.

In 2008, Schultz and a number of distinguished scientists, then at the University of California, San Diego and at San Diego State University, published a small survey study that showed a six-fold increased risk of ASD in 1-to 5-year-old children when routine childhood vaccines were accompanied with acetaminophen versus ibuprofen.

"Unfortunately," Parker said, "Schultz's study was ignored for almost a decade." The study was criticized for being small.

Parker conceded a study like this, taken in isolation, does not seem persuasive. However, he said, it should be considered as just one piece of the big picture of what is causing the dramatic increase in ASD.

As Jennifer Margulis, Ph.D., wrote in her Substack post on Parker's paper, "In a nutshell, it's impossible to see a big picture with a scientific microscope."

A narrative review of the evidence

The goal of Parker's latest study was to pull together the many pieces of evidence in order to better understand the big picture.

The study is a narrative review that presents the 17 lines of evidence suggesting acetaminophen is associated with ASD and examines the alternative explanations.

Highlights from the review include:

- **Acetaminophen use in pregnancy is neurotoxic to babies**, with long-term effects that include lower IQ, increased ASD and increased ADHD. The authors conclude if babies can be harmed by acetaminophen in utero, it's unreasonable to think they couldn't also be harmed by the drug after birth.

- **Studies on rats and mice showed acetaminophen causes long-term brain damage**, and this early exposure to the drug was at doses that are similar to or even less than doses received by human babies and children. An alternative explanation is that rat and mouse pups are more sensitive to acetaminophen than human babies. However, the authors point out that lab animals are often less sensitive to toxins, such as the heavy metal lead and the insecticide DDT.

- **The incidence of ASD began to increase in the early 1980s**, coinciding with the discovery aspirin was associated with Reye's syndrome and the resulting switch from using aspirin in children to using acetaminophen.

The authors argue this was not a coincidence.

- **The incidence of ASD steadily increased** in the U.S., after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) eased restrictions on direct-to-consumer advertising in 1997. That, and other factors, may have increased the use of pharmaceutical products.

- **The circumcision of baby boys is associated with a dramatic increase (50%) in the risk for early-onset ASD.** Acetaminophen is frequently used to relieve pain caused by circumcision.

- **The combination of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine with the use of acetaminophen is associated with higher risk of ASD than MMR vaccination alone.** "Many parents believe that their children's ASD was induced by a vaccine based on their own observations or the observations of trusted social networks."

However, the authors argue the vaccination caused oxidative stress. The subsequent administration of acetaminophen — not the vaccine — then triggered the ASD.

- **People with cystic fibrosis, who are unusually efficient at metabolizing acetaminophen, have a low incidence of ASD.**

- **In South Korea, where acetaminophen-containing products were repeatedly found to contain amounts of the drug exceeding the package label, researchers found an unexpectedly high prevalence of ASD.**

What can parents do instead? Alternatives to acetaminophen

What will it take to change the authorization of acetaminophen for children or at least get a black box warning on the drug?

Parker contacted the FDA, but said, "The way the tide was turned with aspirin and Reye's Syndrome was through grassroots efforts."

In the meantime, the narrative review by Parker and his colleagues is there for parents and caregivers who want to review the evidence and decide for themselves if acetaminophen is worth the risk for babies and young children.

"In my experience, with very rare exceptions, parents who are aware of the available evidence will avoid giving acetaminophen to their babies and children," said Parker.

Unlike some potential causes of autism, acetaminophen is one risk factor that parents, caregivers and physicians can often eliminate with ease, Parker said.

For parents looking for alternatives to treat fevers in children, Parker recommended the "Treating a Fever Without Medicine" resource from the American Academy of Pediatrics, with tips such as offering plenty of fluids and sponging the child.

Margulis suggested a range of natural remedies to treat pain and fever in children.

***Updated:** This article was updated to state that the authors are sounding the alarm about the use of Tylenol in infants and children, but did not call for an immediate end to its use.*

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Julie Comber, Ph.D.
Julie Comber is a freelance science reporter for The Defender.

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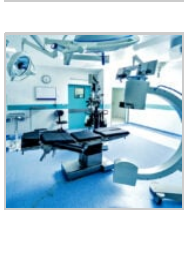

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Name

Mary K • 2 days ago
Child went into Autism after the flu vaccine. Acetaminophen is not the cause in my son's case. It is directly related to the flu vaccine.
6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Wendy Allen → Mary K • 2 days ago
Flu vax ingredients are not good.... and now a higher dose.
https://www.medicalnewstoda...
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

IcedRaisin • 2 days ago
This is nothing new. And, btw, were the Kanner classics in the 50s 60s and earlier taking Tylenol? The chemical industry is wholly to blame. Chemicals in the cleaners, immunizations, foods. A lot of these don't even have to be declared. Corrupt politic and evil doers who say nothing. Boom! Autism.
Father of twin daughters severely affected by autism.
6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Caroline Cary Davidson → IcedRaisin • 2 days ago
yes, all autism is ultimately multi-factorial. there is no one cause and every case is different. similarities, of course but still individual. just another example of why the 'one size fits all' model of allopathic medicine will always be WRONG. and harmful.
4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Beatrice → Caroline Cary Davidson • a day ago
That's so true Caroline and as we know correlation isn't causation.
^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Mark Grignon • 2 days ago
Sounds like a cover up story to hide the real danger of vaccines.
And yes, acetaminophen should never be given to children.
5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Truth59 • 2 days ago
Kids should never be vaccinated IMHO but if they are giving them real white willow bark instead of Bayer aspirin (that's organic white willow bark without the other chemicals in regular aspirin) would be a better choice than any NSAID. Any family with an autistic person in it should check out WestonAPrice.org and even try to go to local meetings. They have a lot of members who have autism in the family.
5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

EpiMom • 2 days ago
Please consider singing and sharing the Change .org petition to get Acetaminophen (Tylenol) removed from Over-The-Counter use. https://chng.it/YmSpBgtf
4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Gary Brown • 2 days ago
Jun 19, 2018 Visualising Aluminium in Human Brain Tissue in Autism and Multiple Sclerosis By Matthew Mold, United Kingdom
3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Mary K → Gary Brown • 2 days ago
How do you remove aluminum from the brain?
1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Jennifo → Mary K • a day ago
It definitely is a long process & any little amount does help. I use MCT oil (1 Tblspn) in my coffee every morning to help clear the brain & I can tell it helps to remember names & some specifics I found myself slowly dodging (I'm 56 & Alzheimer's runs in my family). I've had 11 of my 14 mercury fillings removed by a biological dentist, have done over a year of electro therapy detox, sauna detox, supplemental detox, it goes on...I'm sure Dr. Mercola has a wealth of knowledge on his site.
3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Dee → Mary K • 2 days ago
I read an extraordinary review on Amazon for little white dropper bottle w/green label called Zetox. It is a clay-type mineral in a suspension, flavored to taste okay, take a dropperful. Start with less for children. The review was detailed and had comments on how this woman's autistic son slowly began to process things more normally over time from taking this, starting slow (due to detox reactions, pulls bad stuff out of the body, particularly metals) and increasing dose as time went on.
Bentonite clay, (pharmaceutical grade) might likely work the similar as the Zeolite in Zetox. If one has mercury (amalgam) fillings in their mouth, those silver-colored fillings, should have those removed by a biological dentist (who will do it safely so you don't absorb the toxins in the fillings during removal) and go on a detox w/clay. Read up on how to do this slowly but effectively. Duckduckgo or Brave, stay away from Google for best results.
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Beatrice → Dee • a day ago
I think all the dentists use a safe method for removing mercury now- mainly to protect themselves from exposure..not the patient of course!

Birds in the southern hemisphere consume bentonite clay from the cliffs in order to detox. Zeolite is also good... I use spirulina and chlorella every day to help detox. But as you say, it's important to remove the mercury fillings because otherwise, these will mobilize the mercury through the body.
^ | v • Reply • Share ›

BChristine → Dee • a day ago
FYI, Duckduckgo is no longer a credible search engine, and practices heavy censorship:
https://realstevo.substack....
^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Polly Green → Mary K • 2 days ago
I don't know that you can, but I know also that the "iron fortification" in cereals and grain flour is just crude shavings. Avoid "enriched" anything. We should all only use medications of any kind in life and death situations and even then with profound caution.
2 ^ | v 1 • Reply • Share ›

This comment was marked as spam.

Mary K → Jarray Ambrose • 2 days ago
Thank You for caring. God Bless you!
1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Gary Brown → Mary K • a day ago
I am not positive you can. I do however came across this doing my own searches. I hope this helps Mary K. and have a great day and be blessed.

February 5th, 2019 Healing from Vaccines Masterclass - Module 1

Having been through his own battle with heavy metal poisoning, Dr. Dan Pompa has first-hand experience with the symptoms of vaccine injury.

https://www.bitchute.com/vi...
^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Caroline Cary Davidson → Mary K • 2 days ago
I'm not sure if it has been show to remove from the brain (once its built up in there, its more complicated, I assume) but a known, gentle detox for aluminum is Fiji water.
^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Dee • 2 days ago
They sure don't want to attribute autism to vaccines. Those alone have all the things in it to cause autism, like the metals, sometimes more than one, petroleum products, more bullshit crap. But the acetaminophen is compounding it. Big Pharma succeeding at what they set out to do, good job F-BP.
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Polly Green • 2 days ago
In the pediatrician's office they'll practically ladle the day-glo Tylenol down your kid's gullet as the needles are jabbed into their little legs.
God help us all, but especially the young whose parents are bullied or brainwashed.
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Jennifo → Polly Green • a day ago
It is one my regrets as a mother of 4. Even when I didn't fully know what I was doing being a mother, I'd refuse the Dr. who wanted to give my kids their 'catch up' shots when I'd take them into a sick visit if they had an ear infection or croup & had fevers! I'd tell the Dr. I'd come back once their immunities were better. Thank God I knew enough to do that. But deeply regret the shots that I thought my kids 'needed' as children. I've since been educated. Thankfully they did not suffer autism (2 have intel high security jobs in the military & another received intel scores). Until they 'had' to take the clot shots...sigh.
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Noodles123 • 2 days ago
Been saying this for decades.
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Christiana et Fidelis • 2 days ago
Tylenol is prescribed by quacks for just about every type of childhood visit to the ER: even for bronchitis or seizures or fevers 😉. It's useless and does nothing to nourish the nervous system; rather it impedes the ability of nerves to function. 💗
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Grumpy Granny → Christiana et Fidelis • 2 days ago
It's also prescribed to almost every adult who sees a doctor. I told my doctor that I don't even get a placebo effect from Tylenol (which is true). Adults are likely to take it and drink alcohol - voila liver damage.
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Polly Green → Grumpy Granny • 2 days ago
Even without booze it's poison.
3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Erica • 2 days ago
From the article, "… the authors "concluded without any reasonable doubt" that postnatal exposure to acetaminophen for children at risk is "responsible for many if not most cases of ASD."" Interesting conclusion which erroneously exonerates vaccines. Does 'correlation does not equal causation' only apply to vaccination? Was there a control group of non-vaccinated but Tylenol-taking babies reviewed? How about vaccinated but no Tylenol kids with autism? Our experience does not support this conclusion - first child, regrettably, lived on Tylenol due to repeat ear infections after vaccines, but no autism. Second child - no Tylenol ever but autism after vaccines. Many of us have known for over a decade about the connection between Tylenol, glutathione, and autism. It's good there are some in the medical community catching up - or for some reason are now able to speak openly about it. But this in no way accounts for "most cases of ASD" without vaccines having culpability.
1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Caroline Cary Davidson • 2 days ago
this is something that has been known in the autism community for years (ok, the autism community that KNOWS ASD is medical, as opposed to the neuro diversity & 'acceptance' folks who insist our developmentally damaged kids are 'just different') but I am really glad to see work being done to add to the scientific evidence. I recently was able to talk a young dad out of giving his toddler a dose just because he 'didn't feel well'. its difficult to get parents to understand that fever and symptoms of illness are what the body NEEDS to heal itself. our society's 'grab the medication' as a knee-jerk response to the slightest sign of symptoms is so ultimately damaging.
1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Joe Jenkins • 7 hours ago
Acetaminophen is commonly given to children by their parents after the administration of vaccines, on the advice of their medical practitioner. Sometimes these children are also taking antibiotics at the same time. This 3-drug cocktail is surely very dangerous to the developing child, especially babies. Has this been studied? On the contrary, "vaccines don't cause autism" is the relentless mantra of the medical establishment. I find this to be a disgusting failure of the scientific community.
^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Salty 1 • 21 hours ago
Big Pharma; blame ANYTHING but vaccinations for causing autism...
^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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